



## Biden's White House invitation to Trump continues a tradition Trump shunned in 2020

By WILL WEISSERT  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Before he comes back for good on Inauguration Day, Donald Trump will return to the White House briefly at the invitation of Democratic President Joe Biden, who had hoped to defeat his Republican predecessor a second time and reside there for four more years. That may make for an awkward encounter, especially given that, after Biden ousted Trump in 2020, Trump offered no such White House invitation to Biden. Trump even left Washington before the Jan. 20, 2021, inauguration, becoming the first president to do so since Andrew Johnson skipped the 1869 swearing-in of Ulysses S. Grant. Biden also has the unusual distinction of having beaten Trump in one cycle and run against him for about 15 months during this year's campaign.



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President Barack Obama, right, meets with President-elect Donald Trump in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, Nov. 10, 2016.

Associated Press

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# Biden's White House invitation to Trump continues a tradition Trump shunned in 2020

Continued from Front

As he sought reelection, Biden constantly decried Trump as a threat to democracy and the nation's core values before leaving the race in July and endorsing Vice President Kamala Harris, who took on her own campaign and lost on Election Day.

When the two meet in the Oval Office on Wednesday, it'll technically be the first time since 1992 that an outgoing president sits down with an incoming one he competed against in a campaign. Back then, Republican President George H.W. Bush met with Democrat and President-elect Bill Clinton about two weeks after they squared off on Election Day.

Bush and Clinton talked policy before going together to the Roosevelt Room to meet with their transition staff. Clinton later called the meeting "terrific" and said Bush was "very helpful." Over the decades, such handoff meetings between outgoing presidents and their replacements have been by turns friendly, tense and somewhere in between.

This time, Biden has vowed to ensure a smooth transition and emphasized the importance of working with Trump, who is both his presidential predecessor and successor, to bring the country together. Biden's White House invitation to Trump includes his wife, the former and now incoming first lady, Melania Trump.

"I assured him that I'd direct my entire administration to work with his team," Biden said of the call with Trump when he made the invitation. The president-elect "looks forward to the meeting," spokesman Steven Cheung said.

Jim Bendat, a historian and author of "Democracy's Big Day: The Inauguration of Our President," called face-to-face chats between outgoing and incoming presidents "healthy for democracy."

"I'm pleased to see that the



Former President Donald Trump, right, and Melania Trump disembark from their final flight on Air Force One at Palm Beach International Airport in West Palm Beach, Fla., Jan. 20, 2021.

Associated Press

Democrats have chosen to take the high road and returned to the traditions that really do make America great," Bendat said.

Trump has done this before. This year's meeting won't be uncharted territory for Trump.

He and then-Democratic President Barack Obama held a longer-than-scheduled 90-minute Oval Office discussion days after the 2016 election. White House chief of staff Denis McDonough also showed Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner around the West Wing.

"We now are going to want to do everything we can to help you succeed. Because, if you succeed, then the country succeeds," Obama told Trump, despite the president-elect being fresh off a victory that dented the outgoing president's legacy.

Trump appeared nervous and was unusually subdued, calling Obama "a good man" and the meeting "a great honor."

He said he had "great respect" for Obama and that they "discussed a lot of different situations, some wonderful and some difficulties."

"I very much look forward to dealing with the president in the future, including counsel," Trump said. Obama White House press secretary Josh Earnest described the meeting as "at least a little less awkward than some might have expected," and he noted that the two "did not relitigate their differences in the Oval Office."

In fact, that encounter went smoothly enough to reassure a few Trump critics that he might grow into the job and become more presidential in temperament and action — an assessment quickly subsumed by Trump's unique relish of bombast and political conflict once his administration began, particularly when it came to his predecessor. Only about four months later, Trump accused Obama — without evidence — of

having his "wires tapped" in Trump Tower before the 2016 election. On social media, he blasted the former president for engaging in "McCarthyism" and decrying it as "Nixon/Watergate. Bad (or sick) guy!"

Obama aides now say that while the 2016 Trump-Obama meeting went well publicly, the incoming president's team ignored most of the transition process and did not have the same reverence for the White House and federal institutions that they or Republican President George W. Bush's team had.

One recalled that the only question Trump counterparts asked at the time was not about the coming workload or responsibilities, but how best to find an apartment in Washington. A tradition, but not a requirement.

The official transition process does not mandate that presidents invite their successors to face-to-face meetings, though it can

feel that way.

"The psychological transfer occurs then," former Vice President Walter Mondale once said.

There's no record of George Washington scheduling a formal meeting with the nation's second president, John Adams, before leaving the then-capital city of New York.

And Adams, after moving into the White House during his term, never invited his political rival and successor, Thomas Jefferson, over before leaving without attending Jefferson's inauguration in 1801.

Still, by 1841, President Martin Van Buren hosted President-elect William Henry Harrison — who had soundly beaten him on Election Day — for dinner at the White House. He even later offered to leave the official residence early to make room for his successor after Washington's National Hotel, where Harrison had been staying, became overcrowded. Harrison instead made a brief, preinaugural trip to Virginia.

More recently, Republican George W. Bush welcomed Obama to the White House in 2008 after calling the election of the nation's first Black president a "triumph of the American story."

And eight years prior, Bush himself was the newcomer when he met with the outgoing Clinton, who had denied his father a second term.

Their chat came just eight days after the Supreme Court resolved the disputed 2000 election, and Bush also later headed to the vice presidential residence to briefly talk with the man he defeated, Al Gore.

Bush and Gore didn't say what they discussed, though vice presidential press aide Jim Kennedy described the conversation as meant to "demonstrate that this is a country where we put aside our differences after a long and difficult campaign."

Trump and Harris spoke by phone this past week but don't have a face-to-face meeting planned. □



# Trump names Lee Zeldin to lead EPA, Stephen Miller to be deputy chief of policy

By **MICHELLE L. PRICE**

**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — President-elect Donald Trump on Monday named former Rep. Lee Zeldin to lead the Environmental Protection Agency as he continues to build out his future administration with loyal supporters.

Trump, in a statement, said Zeldin, who mounted a failed bid for governor of New York in 2022, would “ensure fair and swift deregulatory decisions that will be enacted in a way to unleash the power of American businesses, while at the same time maintaining the highest environmental standards, including the cleanest air and water on the planet.”

Zeldin, who left Congress in 2023, was a surprising pick for the role. His public appearances both in his own campaigns and on behalf of Trump often had him speaking about issues like the military, national security, antisemitism, U.S.-Israel relations, immigration and crime.

He was among the Republicans in Congress who voted against certifying the 2020 election results. While in Congress, he did not serve on committees with oversight of environmental



**Former Rep. Lee Zeldin, R-N.Y., speaks at a rally in Concord, N.H., Jan. 19, 2024.**

**Associated Press**

policy.

In 2016 he pushed to change the designation of about 150 square miles of federal waters in Long Island Sound to state jurisdiction for New York and Rhode Island. He wanted to open the area to striped bass fishing, which is allowed in state waters but banned in the federal area. Trump often pointed to Zeldin's performance in the 2022 gubernatorial race where the Republican did far better than had been expected against Gov.

Kathy Hochul when he insisted he could be competitive in his Democratic home state. While Trump didn't win New York, he did far better than he had during previous elections, particularly in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens.

The announcement comes after Trump selected long-time adviser Stephen Miller, an immigration hard-liner, to be the deputy chief of policy in his new administration and named Rep. Elise Stefanik as his nominee for U.S. Ambassador to

the United Nations.

Miller is one of Trump's longest-serving aides, dating back to his first campaign for the White House. He was a senior adviser in Trump's first term and has been a central figure in many of his policy decisions, particularly on immigration, including Trump's move to separate thousands of immigrant families as a deterrence program in 2018.

Miller has also helped craft many of Trump's hard-line speeches, and was often the public face of those

policies during Trump's first term in office and during his campaigns.

Since leaving the White House, Miller has served as the president of America First Legal, an organization of former Trump advisers fashioned as a conservative version of the American Civil Liberties Union, challenging the Biden administration, media companies, universities and others over issues such as freedom of speech and religion and national security.

He was also a frequent presence during Trump's campaign this year, traveling aboard his plane and often speaking ahead of Trump during the pre-shows at his rallies.

Miller drew large cheers at Trump's rally at Madison Square Garden during the race's final stretch, telling the crowd that, “your salvation is at hand,” after what he cast as “decades of abuse that has been heaped upon the good people of this nation their jobs looted and stolen from them and shipped to Mexico, Asia and foreign countries. The lives of their loved ones ripped away from them by illegal aliens, criminal gangs and thugs who don't belong in this country.” □

# Biden and Harris appear together for the first time since she lost the election to Trump

By **WILL WEISSERT and DARLENE SUPERVILLE**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris on Monday made their first joint appearance since her election loss when they observed Veterans Day together by laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

The pair then went to the cemetery's memorial amphitheater, where Biden honored the service and sacrifice of America's military veterans including those who paid the ultimate price, and their families during what was his final time speaking there as commander in chief of the U.S. military. “It's been the greatest honor of my life, to lead you, to serve you, to care for you, to defend you, just as you defended us, generation after generation after generation,” Biden said. “You are the greatest fighting force, and this is not hyperbole, the finest

fighting force in the history of the world.”

Biden announced that the Department of Veterans Affairs is expanding the types of cancers covered under the PACT Act, legislation he signed to expand health care services for veterans who served at military bases where toxic smoke billowed from “burn pits” that incinerated garbage and other waste.

The president opened his brief remarks by stating that America's “truly sacred obligation” is to prepare those it sends into harm's way and care for them when they come home, or don't.

“To all the military families, to all those with a loved one still missing or unaccounted for, to all Americans grieving the loss of a loved one who wore the uniform, Jill and I want you to know we see you, we thank you and we'll never stop working to meet our sacred obligation to you and your family,” he said. □



**President Joe Biden, left, and Vice President Kamala Harris look on during a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on National Veterans Day Observance at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., Monday, Nov. 11, 2024.**

**Associated Press**



# Fire crews on both U.S. coasts battle wildfires

By CEDAR ATTANASIO

Associated Press

**RINGWOOD, N.J. (AP)**— Fire crews battled small wildfires across the Northeast U.S. on Monday, including a blaze in New York and New Jersey that killed a parks employee over the weekend and postponed Veterans Day plans. A quarter-inch of rain fell overnight from Sunday into Monday in a forest area straddling the border between the two states, giving a slight respite to firefighters.

The fire is one of several burning on the East Coast amid a lack of much rainfall since September. An employee of the New York State Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Department who was assisting firefighting crews died Saturday when he was hit by a falling tree.

The East Coast fires were burning as much larger wildfires raged in California. Firefighters continued making progress against a wildfire northwest of Los Angeles in Ventura County that broke out Wednesday and quickly exploded in size due to dry, warm and gusty Santa Ana winds.

The Mountain Fire in Ventura County prompted thousands of residents to flee their homes and was 36% contained as of Mon-



A firefighter walks through smoke while battling the Mountain Fire, Nov. 7, 2024, in Santa Paula, Calif.

day. The fire's size remains around 32 square miles (about 83 square kilometers). The Mountain Fire has destroyed more than 170 structures, most of them homes, officials said. The cause is under investigation. Across the country on the New Jersey and New York border, the 4.7 square-mile (about 12.2 square-kilometer) fire dubbed the Jennings Creek Wildfire was 10% contained as of midmorning Monday, and 25 structures were considered threatened, although no evacuations had been ordered, according to the

New Jersey Forest Fire Service.

Officials said the overnight rainfall was far less than what was needed to extinguish numerous brush fires that have broken out around New Jersey since the middle of last week. At least four other wildfires in central to northern New Jersey were mostly or completely contained as of Monday.

In order to find and fight the fires, crews are navigating a maze of country roads, lakes and steep hills amid dense forests. Trees there have dropped most of

their leaves onto parched ground, masking a potential danger.

"Beneath the surface leaf litter that falls off the trees, that stuff is bone dry," Bryan Gallagher, a forest ranger with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, said at a media briefing. "So right now you get a little bit of rain that puts that surface fire out. But if it's in the duff it's going to stay there. It's going to smolder like a cigar until it gets dry enough and then that fire can pop up again." In some areas, narrow columns of white

smoke could be seen creeping out of a lakeside tree canopy Monday afternoon. With the smell of smoke permeating the air in some areas, residents negotiated a string of road closures, and even some firefighters struggled driving on winding roads with weak cellphone signals.

A firefighting helicopter capable of dropping 350 gallons (1,325 liters) at a time was being used to help combat the Jennings Creek fire.

In West Milford, New Jersey, a Veterans Day ceremony was postponed to later in the month because of the firefighting effort, said Rudy Hass, the local Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. commander.

"Many of those personnel currently engaged with the fires are veterans themselves, and right now we need to keep them in our thoughts as they spend many hours, day and night, doing all they can in order to protect our great communities in that area," he posted online.

Meanwhile, New York State Police said they were investigating the death of Dariel Vasquez, the 18-year-old state parks employee killed Saturday while fighting a fire near New York state's Greenwood Lake. □

## NYC Mayor Eric Adams requests earlier trial date so he can focus on reelection campaign

By JAKE OFFENHARTZ

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — New York City Mayor Eric Adams is seeking to move up the start of his trial on corruption and bribery charges so he can focus on his campaign for reelection this spring.

In a letter sent to the federal judge on Monday, an attorney for Adams, Alex Spiro, requested the trial begin on April 1 rather than the current planned date of April 23.

"An earlier trial date will ensure that Mayor Adams's speedy trial rights are upheld, that the Mayor will be able to fully participate in his reelection campaign and that this City's voters

can be rid of the distraction of this misguided indictment as they hear from and

evaluate the Democratic candidates for Mayor on their merits," Spiro wrote.



New York City Mayor Eric Adams speaks to reporters after a news conference in New York, Monday, Sept. 30, 2024.

Associated Press

Adams, a Democrat, was indicted in September on charges that he accepted luxury travel perks and illegal campaign corporations from a Turkish official seeking political favors. He has pleaded not guilty to the charges and insisted he will remain in office as he fights the case.

He is expected to face a contested Democratic primary in June, with several opponents already announcing their interest in challenging him.

Inquiries to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Manhattan were not returned.

At a hearing earlier this month, prosecutors said they would be ready for a

trial whenever it is scheduled, but noted were still making their way through reams of seized records and had not yet accessed Adams' personal cellphone. According to his indictment, Adams changed his password just before giving the phone to authorities, then claimed he forgot it. In his letter on Monday, Spiro said he would waive access to certain discovery materials if it meant speeding up the date of the trial. Under the current schedule, he predicted a verdict would come in late May, giving the mayor only a short window of time to clear his name among voters. □



# Israel's military is building along UN-patrolled demilitarized zone in Syria, satellite images show

By JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates

(AP) — Israel has begun a construction project along the so-called Alpha Line that separates the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights from Syria, apparently laying asphalt for a road right along the frontier, satellite photos analyzed by The Associated Press show.

Israeli troops have entered the demilitarized zone during the work, the United Nations confirmed to the AP, a violation of the cease-fire rules governing the area.

The work, which earlier satellite photos show began in earnest in late September, follows the completion by the Israeli military of new roadways and what appears to be a buffer zone along the Gaza Strip's frontier with Israel.

The Israel military also has begun demolishing villages in Lebanon, where United Nations peacekeepers have come under fire.

So far, there has been no major violence along the Alpha Line, which delineates the demilitarized zone between Syria and Israeli-occupied territory that U.N. peacekeepers have patrolled since 1974.

Syria, which has been at war with Israel since its founding in 1948 and relies on Iran for support, has re-



This satellite image from Planet Labs PBC shows Israeli forces digging along the Alpha Line separating the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights from a demilitarized zone in Syria patrolled by United Nations forces on Nov. 5, 2024.

Associated Press

mained silent regarding the construction.

But the Golan Heights remain a flashpoint for the two countries making any changes along the border potentially that much more sensitive.

The Israeli military did not respond to requests for comment and Syrian officials in Damascus declined to comment. High-resolution images taken on Nov. 5 by Planet Labs PBC for the AP show over 7.5 kilometers (4.6 miles) of construc-

tion along the Alpha Line, starting some 3 kilometers (1.8 miles) southeast of the Israeli-held Druze town of Majdal Shams, where a July rocket strike killed 12 children playing soccer.

The images appear to show a trench between two embankments, parts of which appear to have been laid with fresh asphalt. There also appears to be fencing running along it as well toward the Syrian side.

The construction follows a southeast route before

heading due south along the Alpha Line, and then again cutting southeast. The images show excavators and other earth-moving equipment actively digging along the route, with more asphalt piled there. The area is also believed to be littered with unexploded ordnance and mines from decades of conflict.

The United Nations maintains a peacekeeping force in the demilitarized zone called the United Nations Disengagement Ob-

server Force, or UNDOF.

"In recent months, UNDOF has observed construction activity being carried out by the IDF along the cease-fire line," U.N. peacekeeping spokesperson Nick Birnback told the AP, using an acronym for the Israeli military.

"In this regard, UNDOF has observed in some instances, IDF personnel, Israeli excavators, other construction equipment and the construction itself encroach into the area of separation."

Birnback added that "no military forces, equipment or activity by either Israel or Syria are permitted in the area of separation."

While Israel hasn't acknowledged the construction, it sent a 71-page letter in June to the U.N. outlining what it described as "Syrian violations of the Alpha Line and armed presence in the area of separation (that) occur daily." The letter cited numerous Israeli-alleged violations by Syrian civilians crossing the line.

"Syrian violations of that agreement only heighten tensions in our already volatile region," the letter added.

Syria has repeatedly accused Israel of launching attacks against it from territory it occupies in the Golan Heights. □

## U.N. warns that toxic smog in Pakistan's Punjab province is endangering children

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The U.N. children's agency on Monday warned that the health of 11 million children in Pakistan's eastern Punjab province is in danger because of air pollution that experts say has become a fifth season in recent years.

Toxic smog has shrouded Pakistan's cultural capital of Lahore and 17 other districts in Punjab since last month. Health officials say more than 40,000 people have been treated for respiratory ailments.

UNICEF's representative in Pakistan, Abdullah Fadil, in a statement urged the government to make urgent and greater efforts to reduce air pollution for the 11 million affected children under the age of 5 and others.

"Prior to these record-breaking levels of air pollution, about 12% of deaths in children

under 5 in Pakistan were due to air pollution," Fadil said. "The impact of this year's extraordinary smog will take time to assess, but we know that doubling and tripling the amount of pollution in the air will have devastating effects, particularly on children and pregnant women." Pakistan has shut schools until Nov. 17 in parts of Punjab as part of measures aimed at protecting children's health. Authorities on Friday ordered the closure of all parks and museums for 10 days, and they have been urging people to avoid unnecessary travel.

According to the Environmental Protection Department in Punjab, Multan remained the most polluted city on Monday, with air quality index readings of about 800. Anything over 300 is considered hazardous to health. □



A commuter train moves with headlights as smog envelops the area of Lahore, Pakistan, Monday, Nov. 11, 2024.

Associated Press



# Research reveals China has built prototype nuclear reactor to power aircraft carrier

By DAVID RISING and DIDI TANG

Associated Press

**Bangkok (AP)** — China has built a land-based prototype nuclear reactor for a large surface warship, in the clearest sign yet Beijing is advancing toward producing the country's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, according to a new analysis of satellite imagery and Chinese government documents provided to The Associated Press.

There have long been rumors that China is planning to build a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, but the research by the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in California is the first to confirm it is working on a nuclear-powered propulsion system for a carrier-sized surface warship.

Why is China's pursuit of nuclear-powered carriers significant?

China's navy is already the world's largest numerically, and it has been rapidly modernizing. Adding nuclear-powered carriers to its fleet would be a major step in realizing its ambitions for a true "blue-water" force capable of operat-



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, conventionally powered Chinese aircraft carrier Liaoning carries out a dual aircraft carrier formation exercise with the Shandong aircraft carrier, unseen, for the first time in the South China Sea in late October 2024.

Associated Press

ing around the globe in a growing challenge to the United States.

Nuclear carriers take longer to build than conventional carriers, but once in operation they are able to stay at sea for much longer because they do not need to refuel, and there is more room on board for fuel and weapons for aircraft, thus

extending their capabilities. They are also able to produce more power to run advanced systems.

Right now, only the United States and France have nuclear-powered carriers. The U.S. has 11 in total, which allows it to keep multiple strike groups deployed around the world at all times, including in the Indo-

Pacific.

But the Pentagon is growingly increasingly concerned about China's rapid modernization of its fleet, including the design and construction of new carriers.

China currently has three carriers, including the new Type 003 Fujian, which was the first both designed and

built by China. It has said work is already underway on a fourth, but it has not announced whether that will be nuclear or conventionally powered. The modernization aligns with China's "growing emphasis on the maritime domain and increasing demands" for its navy "to operate at greater distances from mainland China," the Defense Department said in its most recent report to Congress on China's military.

How did researchers conclude China has built a prototype reactor for a carrier?

Middlebury researchers were initially investigating a mountain site outside the city of Leshan in the southwest Chinese province of Sichuan over suspicions that China was building a reactor to produce plutonium or tritium for weapons. Instead they said they determined that China was building a prototype reactor for a large warship.

The conclusion was based upon a wide variety of sources, including satellite images, project tenders, personnel files, and environmental impact studies. □

# Haiti swears in a new prime minister as gangs open fire at a flight landing in the main airport

By EVENS SANON and MEGAN JANETSKY

Associated Press

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)**

— Haiti's international airport shut down temporarily on Monday after gangs opened fire at a Spirit Airlines flight landing in Port-Au-Prince, the U.S. State Department and the airline said. The latest violence came as a new prime minister was sworn in.

The flight, headed from Fort Lauderdale to Port-Au-Prince, was hit multiple times by gunfire as it was set to land in Haiti's capital, striking a flight attendant, who suffered minor injuries. Photos and videos obtained by The Associated Press show bullet holes dotting the interior of a plane.

The flight was diverted and landed in the Dominican Republic, according to Spirit Airlines. It appeared to be part of what the U.S. Embassy called "gang-led

efforts to block travel to and from Port-au-Prince which may include armed violence, and disruptions to roads, ports, and airports." In other parts of Haiti's

capital, firefights between gangs and police broke out. Rounds of gunfire echoed through the streets as heavily armed officers ducking behind walls and civilians ran in terror. In other upper class areas, gangs set fire to homes. Schools closed as panic spread in a number of areas.

The turmoil comes a day after a council meant to re-establish democratic order in the Caribbean nation fired the interim prime minister Garry Conille, replacing him with businessman Alix Didier Fils-Aimé. The council has been marked by infighting and three members were recently accused of corruption.

On Monday, suit-clad diplomats and security officials

flocked to the swearing in ceremony, set to take place in the afternoon.

The country has seen weeks of political chaos, which observers warned could result in even more violence in a place where bloodshed has become the new normal.

The country's slate of gangs have long capitalized on political turmoil to make power grabs, shutting down airports, shipping ports and stirring chaos.

The transitional council was established in April, tasked with choosing Haiti's next prime minister and Cabinet with the hope that it would help quell violence, which exploded after Haitian President Jovenel Moïse was assassinated in 2021. □



Journalists take cover from the exchange of gunfire between gangs and police in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Monday, Nov. 11, 2024.

Associated Press



**Did you know about...**

## Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 1)



**(Oranjestad)—Have you ever felt confused when you're driving on the highways or backstreets of Aruba? Then we present a simple guide to some of the basic rules of Aruban traffic, along with some tips for things to look out for.**

### Speed limit

Legally, the speed limit on the four-lane highways is 80 km/h. This speed limit also counts for the main roads that are connected to the highways. The minimum speed is 50 km/h. Most people drive around 60 km/h on the main roads and about 70 km/h on the highways. There are also areas that indicate a speed limit on a sign; these are usually around populated and school areas.

The four-lane highways contain the left-lane, also known as the "fast" lane for each direction. Here is where vehicles can drive up to the maximum speed. However, legally it is not permitted to drive for long periods of time on the left lane. This lane is primarily designed for drivers to switch lanes before a roundabout, for example, if your exit

on the roundabout is on your far left. The general lane to drive in—both at maximum and minimum speed—is on the right lane.

### Roundabouts

Speaking of roundabouts, it is important to know where you have to enter and drive on the roundabout to make your exit. A good rule of thumb is to count the exits starting from your right side. So, exit 1 would be on your right; exit 2 would be straight ahead; exit 3 would be on your far left and exit 4 would lead to the road paralleled to the one you're on, heading in the other direction.

Most roundabouts have these 4 exits, so they are relatively simple. When you're driving on the four-lane highway, it is important to know when to switch to the left lane to make your exit: if your exit is on your far left (exit 3), then you need to switch to the left lane on the high way before nearing the roundabout so you can take the path that leads you directly to your exit. If your exit is on your right or if you're going straight ahead, you

can keep driving in the right lane of the highway.

It's also important to know that vehicles about to enter the roundabout must yield to those already on it. A good rule of thumb is to look out if someone is coming from your left side.

However, other roundabouts can be quite tricky to navigate...

### Watty Vos Boulevard (the "paperclip" roundabout)

Probably the biggest roundabout on the island, the "paperclip" roundabout on the Watty Vos Boulevard is one of the trickier roundabouts that could—and has—caused confused among both tourists and locals. However, once you take a good look at it, it's fairly simple. The basis is just the same as a regular roundabout (left exit? left lane! etc.), but instead of having four different exits like on a regular roundabout, now you have two extra; one on the right and the other on the left side of the roundabout. The rules don't change at all, you just have to keep an extra

eye open.

### Airport roundabout

Ah, yes. The infamous airport roundabout. The favorite roundabout amongst local, because of its easy (hard) lanes that never (always) cause confusion among drivers. Sarcasm aside, this roundabout can be tricky to enter, especially when you're driving from the direction of the airport heading. When you're driving away from the airport reaching the roundabout, you'll be faced with three lanes. The far right lane is to take the exit 1 out heading east (right lane of highway). The middle exit is used for exit 1 (left lane of highway), 2 and 3. The far left exit is used to only exit on exit 3 (left lane of highway) and 4.

### "Las Americas" roundabout

The Las Americas roundabout is located near the Talk of the Town hotel, west from the airport roundabout. This roundabout may look like a regular roundabout—and for the most part, it is. However, when you are driving from the east going in the direction of town, please take note that there are two exits on your right.

When you're driving towards this roundabout, you'll notice that the road becomes wider, splitting into two lanes. The right lane is used to take the first and second exit on the right. If you want to exit straight ahead, you must drive on the left lane!

It's always scary to drive in new places where the traffic may look and work differently, but once you get it right once, you'll get the hang of it in no time. Additionally, all roundabouts and roads on Aruba have signs and arrows painted on the road to help guide you. So take your time, keep your eyes open and don't forget to wear a seat belt! □

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  Po-Ké Ono Marketplace  
LG. Smith Blvd 9, Unit 25.

## Po-Ke Ono Azure launches exclusive breakfast menu



Po-Ke Ono Azure is proud to announce the launch of its exclusive breakfast menu, inviting guests to experience mornings infused with Asian-inspired flavors, fresh ingredients, and a touch of tropical paradise.

Located at the scenic Azure Residences at Eagle Beach, Po-Ke Ono now offers an exceptional morning menu with options like the Thai Breakfast Bowl, Acai Bowl, and



Asian Omelet. Designed to bring unique flavors to Aruba's breakfast scene, the menu also includes fresh coffee, mimosas, and tropical juices, perfect for pairing with the restaurant's relaxed beachside atmosphere.

"Our goal was to create a breakfast experience that captures the essence of Po-Ke Ono and brings a fresh twist to mornings here at Azure," said Executive Chef Urvin Croes, founder of Po-Ke Ono. "Each dish is crafted with care, featuring

ingredients that highlight the vibrant, Asian-inspired flavors we're known for."



Available every morning at Po-Ke Ono Azure, the new breakfast lineup is ideal for early risers and those looking for a unique start to their day.

### About Po-Ke Ono Azure

Since its inception, Po-Ke Ono has quickly become a culinary landmark in Aruba, known for its signature fusion of Hawaiian and Asian flavors. With two locations across the island, Po-Ke Ono continues to innovate and delight, with Po-Ke Ono Azure offering exclusive breakfast options at the iconic Eagle Beach. □

## Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Marriott's Aruba Surf Club!



The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years

consecutively visiting Aruba)  
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

### The honorees were:

Distinguished Visitors  
Mrs. Rosa Munoz & Mr. Eduardo Meza from Puerto Montt, Los Lagos, Chile.

Ms. Keyttin Silva representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Marriott's Aruba Surf Club bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation

destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba is outside Hurricane Bell
- Aruba has very friendly people
- Aruba's weather.
- "The feeling of safety & security on the island"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □



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## Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

### The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

### The honorees were:

Distinguished Visitors  
Mr. Alfred Durso & Mrs. Donna Leonardo from

Oakdale, New York, United States.

Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Bucuti & Tara Beach Club Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's beaches
- Aruba's food
- Aruba's people
- Aruba's weather
- Bucuti & Tara

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island".



## Aruba's most family-friendly beaches

(Oranjestad)—One of the biggest concerns that parents have when travelling with their children is a guarantee of their safety and healthy enjoyment. Therefore, we thought it would be a great help to travelling parents to list off some the most family-friendly beaches around the island.

### Baby Beach in San Nicolas

Baby Beach is one Aruba's most popular and visited beaches, and for good reason: This sandy and

quiet lagoon is a great place for parents to sit back and relax while their children play in the shallow shores of the beach. Beside the relaxing atmosphere, there are also several services that may accommodate your stay, like a parking lot, sun tent rentals, chairs, bathrooms and a snack bar right at the far left of the beach.

### Mangel Halto in Pos Chiquito

Mangel Halto is situated in the back streets of the Pos Chiquito

city. Though there are several stairs on the sides of the beach cliff leading you down, the best spot for families to hang out is across the bridge, passed the mangrove trees near the entrance sign. Here, there are small and big palapas, perfect for big and small families to set up their belongings. In this area, the shore is also shallow, falling right around your knee before slowly getting deeper: perfect for kids to safely play.

### Eagle Beach/Palm Beach in the hotel area

Yet another highly popular beach site, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach is where most of our visitors go to tan, swim or play in the white sand. Because they are near the low-rise and high-rise hotel areas, these beaches are the most accessible for visitors on foot. These beaches also offer many palapas free to use, but you can also rent chairs and tents. Much like Baby Beach,

these sites are one of the best beaches for your children to play and build sand castles.

### Boca Catalina in Malmok

Boca Catalina is a small bay beach near the Malmok beach area further down the hotel areas. Though it may not be a very sandy beach, it is relatively quiet and tranquil. This is a great place for family to lay down a big blanket and have a little picnic. This is also one of the best places to snorkel, as this area is filled with little fish and corals, even close to the shore.

### Palm Island

Ok, this one is technically not a beach, but a must-visit attraction for family fun. This small water park oasis is located further down the Mangel Halto Beach and is reachable by boat. This water park offers 6 hours of fun activities, food, drinks, and a chance to see pink flamingoes up close!





## Aruban legends: Frenchman's Pass

**(Oranjestad)—If you ever plan on taking a group tour of the island, you may pass through the Frenchman's Pass in Balashi. The Frenchman's pass (known to locals as "Franse Pas") remains a mysterious—and spooky—road of which its legend is told from generation to generation.**

The history of the Frenchman's pass—and how it got its name—dates back to the colonization era, when the French tried to colonize the island, but were met with an angry mob of indigenous settlers, refusing to give up their land. However, as the French were heavily equipped with fire arms, the indigenous settlers began to retreat, and hid away in nearby caves. The French colonizers tried to smoke them out of the caves, but the indigenous settlers ended up inhaling too much smoke and most died in those caves. From then on, this passage

was known as Frenchman's Pass, and there have been many accounts of spirits roaming the area of Spanish Lagoon.

There are many ghost stories surrounding this area, but one of the most famous one involves a lonely hitchhiker, trying to find a ride back home in the dark rainy night.

Sometime after trying to hitchhike, the man saw a car approaching, appearing almost ghost-like in the rain. However, since he needed a ride real bad, he didn't think twice and jumped in. But to his horror, he noticed that there was no driver in the front. Paralyzed with fear, he didn't dare to get out, and the car started to move.

When approaching a sharp turn, the hitchhiker braced for impact, but just when he thought the car might drive straight off the



road and crash, he saw a hand appear out the window and turn the wheel. For the next few turns, the hand appeared again. After having had enough, the man decided to jump out and he ran to Santa Cruz.

Arriving at a nearby bar, he ordered a drink and began to tell everyone about his experience. Everyone

grew quiet, because they realized he wasn't some drunk messing around; he was telling the truth.

Sometime later, two men walked into the bar and one of them noticed the hitchhiker. He called out to his buddy and said: "Look, there's the idiot who sat in our car when we were pushing it!"

French man's pass is one of the few sites on the island that keeps the locals on their toes. While most ghost stories may not have real grounds—or some may even be a set up story for a joke, this pass contributes a lot to our culture of folkloric story-telling. □

Source: [visitaruba.com](http://visitaruba.com)

## Aruban snacks and where to find them

**ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals.**

One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is a Caribbean fried pastry that is filled with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish! Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, locally called a "kroket," which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the "bitterbal".

These two snacks are typically

found in all local snack trucks, which can be found all over the island, including on the side of the main road that stretches from San Nicolas to the Hotel Area. You can also find pastechis and krokets at local bakeries and snack shops, like Bright Bakery in Piedra Plat, Huchada in Santa Cruz or Pastechi House in the city center. These places may also sell other snacks and sandwiches too, perfect for on-the-road lunch break.

While you're at it, why not accompany your snack with a refreshing "batido"? Batidos are fruit shakes, typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However, you can also ask to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batido shops next the flea



markets downtown, or if you're on your way to San Nicolas, at Mauchi Smoothies and Juice Bar in Savaneta (located at the side of the main road).

If you are looking for something a bit more fresh and healthy, why not try some coconuts, or shaved ice from local vendors? These vendors carry their little shop at the back of their truck, so they are ever-moving around the island. However, there are a few spots where you can almost always find a coconut/shaved ice vendor:

1. Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to

Baby Beach.

2. Along the main road next to the airport field.

3. At the California Light House.

4. At the Alto Vista Chapel.

These vendors may also sell other delights, like the beloved coconut-based dessert "cocada" or peanuts. All in all, in Aruba, you can always find some place to take a break and have a bite of something local, you maybe just might have to look for them!

Photo credit: [wheninaruba.com](http://wheninaruba.com)





# National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation

The National Park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There are numerous animals to discover, for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches—a very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

## Nature Conservation

The protected area of National Park Arikok was officially established in 2000. Arikok National Park is a 34 square kilometers (7907 acres) of natural area, lo-



cated at the north-eastern part of Aruba which contains examples of most of the island's flora and fauna against a backdrop of great geological complexity. We are proud to state that approximately 18% of the total land area of Aruba is assigned as a National Park, to protect and

preserve the flora, fauna, geology and historical remains present within Arikok National Park.

## The Landscape

There is a great geological variety within the park. The main aspects are the rough hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysteri-

ous rocks of the batholithic quartz-diorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the island are situated within the park. Jamanota hill 188 meters (617 ft) and Arikok hill 176 meters (577 ft), from which the name of the park is derived.

The line of the permanently wind-and-wave beaten North Coast is broken by several bays (boca's). Most of them are small yet impressive inlets at the mouth of dry riverbeds. Some of these bays (boca's) are spectacular sights, adorned with white, sandy beaches and sand dunes, as is the case at Boca Prins and Dos Playa.

Arikok is also home to Conchi, Aruba's most important natural attraction; also known as The Natural Pool. The journey to the Pool is an adventure by itself and only possible by foot, horse, ATV or 4x4 vehicle.

## Cultural and Historical components

There are a number of sites within the park that attest to the history of Aruba. The Caquetío Indians left rock paintings in Cunucu Arikok and Fontein Cave. The bird drawing in the park logo is a copy of one of these historical artistic expressions.

Old plantation (Cunucus) sites tell the story of an active yet challenging agricultural past.

These Cunucus were also residential areas for the few families that worked the land. These families found ways to survive in the difficult conditions, and

were able to erect their homes with materials found in the area. Two of these adobe houses have been restored. Park rangers are learning many of the old building techniques in order to preserve this unique Aruban mud-house. At Cunucu Arikok and near Plantation Prins you can find these adobe houses.

## Park Management

For the management of the park, a dedicated foundation "Fundacion Parke Nacional Arikok" (FPNA), known today as the Aruba National Park Foundation was established in July 2003. In February 2017, mangrove and wetland RAMSAR site #198 Spanish Lagoon was annexed to Arikok National Park due to its importance as a feeding and breeding area for water birds and as a nursery area for a variety of marine organisms. With this addition, the areas under FPNA management increased by 70 hectares while the amount of species of flora and fauna to be conserved to over 250. On December 21st, 2018 (AB 2018 no. 77) Parke Marino Aruba – currently consisting of four marine protected areas (MPAs) – was officially established and subsequently brought under management of FPNA. In 2019 management plans will be established for the new MPAs which include: coral reefs, sea grass beds, mangrove systems, a large diversity of breeding seabirds. Parke Marino Aruba also contains potential shark nursery areas, endangered sea turtle nesting beaches and marine mammal nursery areas. □

## Announcement for Arikok visitors: San Fuego Entrance closed, entrance only through Vader Piet

The Aruba Conservation Foundation (ACF) would like to inform Arikok visitors to please be advised that access to Parke Nacional Arikok via the San Fuego entrance will be unavailable on November 11 and 15, 2024, due to ongoing work. For your convenience, please use the alternative entrance at Vader Piet, near the windmills in San Nicolas.





# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

## ACROSS

- 1 Valiant person
- 5 Wine holder
- 11 Fans' favorite
- 12 Slow tempo
- 13 Enjoy a novel
- 14 Watering hole
- 15 Complete
- 16 Cartoon skunk — Le Pew
- 17 Body pump
- 19 Very popular
- 22 Whale feature
- 24 Glowed
- 26 See the sights
- 27 Poker payment
- 28 Fiery crime
- 30 River through Alaska
- 31 Flower visitor
- 32 Boot-shaped nation
- 34 Soap residue
- 35 Cruise in the movies
- 38 Watering hole

- 41 Place to put in
- 42 Baltimore player
- 43 Wallet bills
- 44 Improved
- 45 Gumbo veggie

N	A	P	A		C	A	R	A	T
A	D	O	P	T		E	L	A	T
D	O	T	T	E	D	L	I	N	E
E	R	A		N	E	T		L	A
R	E	T	I	N	A		N	O	S
S	O	L	I	D		A	W	E	D
			I	S	L	A	M		
A	S	I	A		I	T	E	M	S
P	E	N	D		N	O	D	E	A
A	N	T		M	E	L		A	V
C	H	O	R	U	S		L	I	N
H	O	T	E	L		S	L	I	M
E	R	O	D	E			L	E	E

Yesterday's answer

## DOWN

- 1 Employ
- 2 Perfect place
- 3 Watering hole
- 4 Antique
- 5 Supply food for
- 6 Conforms
- 7 Dance party
- 8 Long time
- 9 Tall tree
- 10 Long time
- 16 Con-trived
- 18 Franc's replacement
- 19 Watering hole
- 20 Aware of
- 21 Freshman, usually
- 22 Rough guess
- 23 Skin opening
- 25 Transport
- 29 Kidman of film
- 30 Orange tuber
- 33 Radio part
- 34 Chimney grime
- 36 Finished
- 37 Butte's kin
- 38 Cry loudly
- 39 Verb for you
- 40 Set ablaze
- 41 Pigeon sound

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12					
13					14					
15				16						
		17	18					19	20	21
22	23				24	25				
26					27					
28				29	30					
31				32	33					
			34					35	36	37
38	39	40						41		
42								43		
44								45		

4-24

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-24

## CRYPTOQUOTE

BPLS IRPL TEZY BR BAY XPS,

ESC BAY XAECRFXTEDD

MYAKSC IRP. — PSOSRFS

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: A GOOD PIECE OF ART SHOULD MAKE A REVOLUTION INSIDE YOU. — SHOHREH AGHDASHLOO

## Cruise ship Schedule: November 11 - 21 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
MON	11	CELEBRITY ECLIPSE	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL PRIDE	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	12	CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	C	1
		CELEBRITY ASCENT	11.30	21.00	I	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
WED	13	ENCHANTED PRINCESS	08.00	18.00	B	1
		CELEBRITY REFLECTION	10.30	21.00	C	1
FRI	15	EMERALD PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	C	1
SUN	17	FREEWINDS - DEPT.	****	22.15	E	-
TUE	19	CARNIVAL MAGIC	09.00	22.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
THU	21	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS	08.00	20.00	C	1

## Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

### Supermarket hours

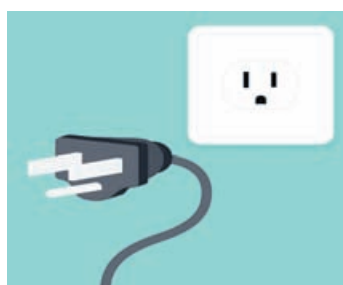


Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

### Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

### Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

### Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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24/7





Images of St. Peter's Basilica are projected on a screen during the preview to the press of the exhibition 'Petros eni', which is part of the project "St. Peter's Basilica: AI-Enhanced Experience" at the Vatican, Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024.

Associated Press

## Vatican, Microsoft create AI-generated St. Peter's Basilica to allow virtual visits, log damage

By NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

**VATICAN CITY (AP)** — The Vatican and Microsoft on Monday unveiled a digital twin of St. Peter's Basilica that uses artificial intelligence to explore one of the world's most important monument's while helping the Holy See manage visitor flows and identify conservation problems. Using 400,000 high-resolution digital photographs, taken with drones, cameras and lasers over four weeks when no one was in the basilica, the digital replica is going online alongside two new on-site exhibits to provide visitors real and virtual with an interactive experience. "It is literally one of the most technologically advanced and sophisticated projects of its kind that has ever been pursued," Microsoft's president Brad Smith told a Vatican press conference.

The project has been launched ahead of the Vatican's 2025 Jubilee, a holy year in which more than 30 million pilgrims are expected to pass through the basilica's Holy Door, on top of the 50,000 who visit on a normal day. □

## Classifieds

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Property land Noord  
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### Aruba Divi Phoenix

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1 BR WK # 43 room # 1401  
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Penthouse 14 th floor  
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

### Aruba Divi Phoenix

Palm beach  
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Room # 706 ocean view  
Contract expire 2052  
Price :\$20 ,000 both units  
Call:011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

### House For sale

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2 BR 3 bath on the 3 rd floor  
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com



## HEALTH

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#### Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm  
Tel. 527 4000

#### San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours  
Tel.524 8833

### PHARMACY ON DUTY

#### Oranjestad:

Oduber: Tel.582 1780

#### San Nicolas:

San Nicolas:Tel. 584 5712

### OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850  
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002  
Urgent Care 586 0448  
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic  
+297 588 0539

### EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

### TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

### TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

### AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank  
Tel. 588 0002  
FAVI- Visually Impaired  
Tel. 582 5051  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
Tel. 736 2952  
Narcotics Anonymous  
Tel. 583 8989  
Fundacion Contra Violencia  
Relacional Tel. 583 5400  
Centre for Diabetes  
Tel. 524 8888  
Child Abuse Prevention  
Tel. 582 4433  
Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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218485





# Veterans face challenges starting small businesses but there are plenty of resources to help

By **MAE ANDERSON**  
AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Many veterans who've started small businesses tell a similar story: Their military service prepared them mentally for the task, but they were at a disadvantage when it came to the financial part. "Vetrepreneurs" veterans that start small businesses or startups own nearly 2 million small businesses that employ 5.5 million people in the U.S., according to the Small Business Administration. They take in about \$1.3 trillion in revenue annually. Their numbers have shrunk, however, as the veteran population has aged. In a 2023 report, the SBA found veteran ownership declined from 11% of businesses in 2014 to 8.1% in 2020.

Veterans enter the business world prepared with skills they gain in the field like leadership and problem-solving. But they haven't had a chance to build up credit or savings that civilians have had more time to do. That can cause problems because banks use that information to approve loans. Not to mention the mental toll it takes to transition from the military life to civilian life. According to data from business coaching nonprofit SCORE, about a third



**Veteran and business owner Jackson Dalton poses for a portrait at the Black Box Safety offices on Thursday, Nov. 7, 2024, in El Cajon, Calif.**

of veteran businesses have limited access to capital or lack of financing. That compares to a quarter of non-veteran-owned firms. SCORE CEO Bridget Weston says the good news is that veterans have plenty of places to turn to for help. Those include nonprofit organizations aimed at getting them on their feet and building up financial literacy, veteran-only loans and grants, and contracts earmarked for veteran owned and disabled veteran owned small businesses. The place that many start is

the Small Business Administration, which offers a program to get certified as a veteran-owned or disabled veteran-owned small business, which can make it easier to get certain loans and federal contracts. That's the route Jackson Dalton decided to take when he started Black Box Safety, a maker of personal protective equipment, in 2017. Dalton enlisted in the U.S. Marines in 2000 and was selected for the prestigious Marine Corps Special Operations. But a badly broken leg, suffered during

training, eventually forced him medically retire after two years of active duty. Although the transition back to civilian life was difficult, Dalton went on to get a master's degree in public health, and spent 10 years working in the health and safety industry. When he ventured out on his own, he decided to focus on federal contracts and got certified by the SBA.

He thought prisons would be a good place to start since 3% of their contracts go to disabled veteran businesses. His first con-

tract was selling gloves to a prison in Minnesota. Today, he serves major clients like the Department of Veterans Affairs and the State of California.

Dalton credits his military training with his success.

"The skills and attributes that I picked up in the military were resilience and grit and the ability to adapt, improvise, overcome when you know, when encountering resistance or obstacles and barriers," he said. Veteran focused nonprofits can be another key place to look for help.

Adam Isch, a Marine Corp. veteran who served two tours in Iraq, worked with nonprofit Warrior Rising in Salt Lake City, to find a mentor to help him start his business, Isch Body Works in Fort Worth, Texas, which sells men's hygiene products. The business donates part of its revenue to charities supporting Texas children in foster care and awaiting adoption. Similar nonprofits include Bunker Labs, Tactical Launch, and others around the country. "Anybody who wants to start a business, especially a veteran, go find a group like a Warrior Rising, there are all kinds of different groups like that getting mentorship," he said. "There are people who are doing what you do." □

**Associated Press**

# Mattel says it 'deeply' regrets misprint on 'Wicked' dolls packaging that links to porn site



**Cynthia Erivo, left, and Ariana Grande arrive at the premiere of "Wicked" on Nov. 9, 2024, at Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles.**

**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Toy giant Mattel says it "deeply" regrets an error on the packaging of its "Wicked" movie-themed dolls, which mistakenly links toy buyers to a pornographic website.

The error gained attention on social media over the weekend, where numerous users shared photos of the URL printed on the back of the boxes for the special edition dolls, which feature characters from the movie adaptation of "Wicked" set to hit theaters later this month. Instead of linking to Universal Pictures' official WickedMovie.com page, the website listed leads to an adult film site that requires consumers to be over 18 to enter.

In a statement sent to The Associated Press, Mattel said it was "made aware of a misprint on the packaging of the Mat-

tel Wicked collection dolls," which it said are primarily sold in the U.S. "We deeply regret this unfortunate error and are taking immediate action to remedy this," the company added.

Mattel did not confirm whether this action included removing unsold products with the incorrect link from stores. But as of Monday morning, at least some of these "Wicked" dolls appeared to be no longer available or not in stock on sites like Amazon, Target and Mattel's.

In the meantime, the company is advising consumers who already have the dolls to discard their packaging or obscure the link and contact Mattel's customer service for more information.

Mattel unveiled its special "Wicked" collection earlier this year. □



## Yankees manager Aaron Boone bothered a little by criticism of defense after World Series meltdown

By **RONALD BLUM**  
AP Baseball Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Yankees manager Aaron Boone is bothered a little by criticism of his team's defense from Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Joe Kelly and defended New York's fielding following a World Series of mistakes and mental errors. "It's a story that blew up too much and understandably we had a really, really tough inning," he said Monday. "If you go back and look at the storyline throughout the season, I felt like there were a lot of times that we were winning games because of whether it was a big defensive play, whether it was small ball on a given day."

Boone spoke during a Zoom news conference, three days after the Yankees exercised his 2025 option. New York wasted a five-run lead in Game 5 of the World Series when center fielder Aaron Judge and shortstop Anthony Volpe made errors and pitcher Gerrit Cole failed to cover first on an infield grounder. The Dodgers won 7-6 to



**New York Yankees manager Aaron Boone watches during batting practice before Game 5 of the baseball World Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers, Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2024, in New York.**  
Associated Press

capture the title.

"The sting of not finishing it off stays with you forever," Boone said. Kelly said on his "Baseball Isn't Boring" podcast the Dodgers entered each game saying: "Just let them throw the ball into the infield. They can't make a play."

"We didn't play as well as

we could've," Boone said.

"And obviously especially had a tough inning in Game 5, so that's the ultimate disappointment. I try never to get too caught up into what other people are saying or doing, especially when it comes from certain places. Everyone's going to have their opinions and

be entitled to things. Certainly, I am very proud of what we do as a group. Obviously, there's always areas to to get better."

Boone has led the Yankees to a 603-429 record, three AL East titles and one pennant. He agreed in October 2021 to a three-year contract that included a

team option for 2025. He said the sides haven't talked yet about a deal for beyond next season.

"We'll see what unfolds but either way I'm prepared and ready to go and excited for 2025," he said.

Boone will fly to California to join owner Hal Steinbrenner for a meeting with Juan Soto, who helped the Yankees reach the World Series for the first time since 2009 and then became a free agent. The 26-year-old hit .288 with 41 homers, 109 RBIs and 129 walks, batting second in the order, followed by Judge.

"I want him in pinstripes moving forward," Boone said, "but you also know there's going to be a lot of people competing for that and who knows where it ends up? All I know is that we'll try and put our best foot forward with it and hope that Juan's back."

Boone anticipates New York will be interested in 23-year-old Japanese right-hander Roki Sasaki, who will be posted and made available for bidding this offseason. □

## Billie Jean King Cup Finals to begin with added attention given to victims of deadly floods in Spain

By **TALES AZZONI**  
AP Sports Writer

**MADRID (AP)** — The Billie Jean King Cup Finals will begin in Malaga this week in a closer partnership with the Davis Cup and with some added attention given to the victims of the deadly floods that recently devastated eastern Spain. It will be the first time that the women's team tournament will take place at the same venue as the Davis Cup and with overlapping dates. And for the second year in a row, it will offer equivalent prize money to the men's competition.

The women's event begins two weeks after a powerful storm caused flash floods that killed more than 200 people in the Valencia region east of Malaga.

The International Tennis

Federation announced a donation to the Spanish Red Cross to support relief and recovery efforts in the region, and Spanish player Paula Badosa said she will donate half of her prize money to help the victims. "I'm excited about representing my country, but I won't forget about what's really important in these moments," Badosa said on a social media post.

Spain takes on Iga Swiatek's Poland on the competition's first day on Tuesday, led by Badosa not long after the former second-ranked player considered retiring while dealing with a chronic back injury. "I think it was a bit of a rollercoaster this year," Badosa said. "I'm really proud of myself, how I overcame these tough situations and

also how I finished the season. I finished the year in a very high level. I'm really happy, as there was one point of the season where I was very far away from the level I wanted to be."

On Wednesday, the United States will take on Slovakia with Ashlyn Krueger replacing Jessica Pegula in Lindsay Davenport's team, which also includes Danielle Collins, Caroline Dolehide, Peyton Stearns and Taylor Townsend.

Also on Wednesday, Japan without Naomi Osaka plays against Romania, while on Thursday it's Germany against Britain. Defending champion Canada, Australia, Italy and the Czech Republic wait to take on the winners of those previous matchups.

Each matchup will be a

best-of-three series with two singles matches and one doubles match.

Previously known as Fed Cup, the competition was rebranded in 2020 to align with former tennis star Billie Jean King.

It will end Nov. 20, while the Davis Cup will be played Nov. 19-24, with all matches taking place at the Palacio de Deportes Jose Maria Martin Carpena in Malaga. □



**Billie Jean King applauds next to trophy during the Billie Jean King Cup finals in La Cartuja stadium in Seville, southern Spain, Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023.**

Associated Press



# Roger Penske closes nearly perfect motorsports season with 3rd consecutive NASCAR championship

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

AVONDALE, Ariz. (AP) —

There is no such a thing as a perfect season. At least that is what Roger Penske told The Associated Press hours after winning his third consecutive NASCAR championship. Maybe not.

But Team Penske sure came close.

It started in January with a rare show of emotion from "The Captain" Josef Newgarden said his 87-year-old boss was in tears after Team Penske won its first Rolex 24 at Daytona endurance race since 1969.

Weeks later, Joey Logano put a Penske car on the pole for the Daytona 500



Joey Logano celebrates after winning a NASCAR Cup Series Championship auto race for the championship at Phoenix Raceway, Sunday, Nov. 10, 2024, in Avondale, Ariz.

Associated Press

cent odds for any team owner, but Penske was armed with 2022 champion Logano, defending champion Blaney and a shot at winning three straight Cup titles.

The organization delivered, with Logano earning his third championship in a closing laps battle with Blaney that gave Penske its first 1-2 NASCAR points finish in team history.

Team Penske is also the only team to win the Cup championship since NASCAR introduced its new car in 2022, and the organization is the first since Hendrick Motorsports in 1998 to win three-straight titles with multiple drivers.

Longtime sponsor Shell-Pennzoil was on the car for both Newgarden's Indy 500 win and Logano's championship Sunday, and, as far as Penske is concerned, this season ranks among the best for an organization that began in 1968.

"Well, I guess you'd have to say it's probably, if not the best, one of the best," Penske said. "I think that obviously not to win the IndyCar championship, which of course it's where we all started and built our first racing team, was disappointing."

And there it is, the part about nothing ever being perfect. Penske can still find a shortfall in this otherwise impeccable season that saw the organization win its 100th Cup Series race with Ford; a 20th Indianapolis 500 win; a second career sweep of front row qualifying at Indy; the 100th sports car win and 100th sports car pole for the organization; Logano becoming just the 10th driver in NASCAR history to win three or more titles, and crew chief Paul Wolfe, with 41 victories, now the winningest active team leader in the Cup Series.

It is all the people who have made this a banner season, Penske insisted. His name is on the cars, but it is the long-term employees who make the organization so successful. □

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for the first time in team history. It turned out Logano was wearing an illegal glove for that historic qualifying run a trick Penske lit into his veteran leader for even trying but the organization moved on to win nearly everything else in major motorsports this season.

Will Power came up short in the IndyCar championship to three-time champion Alex Palou, and Team Penske didn't win the 24 Hours of Le Mans, but shy of that? Most major trophies say Penske this year.

The IndyCar team rocked by its own cheating scandal in the season-opening race won six races and Newgarden claimed a second consecutive Indianapolis 500 victory. Scott McLaughlin finished third in the final standings.

The sports car program that Penske has built from scratch with partner Porsche last month won the IMSA championship and two weekends ago in Bahrain won the World Endurance Championship. At the same time in Martinsville, Virginia, reigning NASCAR champion Ryan Blaney won the race to put two Penske cars in Sunday's winner-take-all Cup Series championship at Phoenix Raceway.

A 50% chance is pretty de-